973.794
P95c

THE CAPTURE OF GEN. ROGER A. PRYOR.

NEW YORK, May 11th, 1889.

Recently, for answer to a political opinion propounded by General Roger A. Pryor, a paper in South Carolina affirmed that General Pryor was a deserter from the Confederate army. The calumny was in itself so incredible, and so contrary to the notorious fact, that it might well be left to perish of its own rottenness. But, since the malice of the calumniator may survive the existence of those who were cognizant of the transaction in question, and may resume its infamous work over the grave, I have deemed it due to my father and to his children, to collect now the statements of eye-witnesses and contemporaneous accounts of his capture and detention as a prisoner of war.

Some only of the evidence I have gathered is appended; but it is enough to exhibit the truth to every candid and honorable mind—and it is for the good opinion of such only that I am solicitous.

ROGER A. PRYOR, JR.

I.

Statement of Major-General Cadmus M. Wilcox, of the Confederate States Army :

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3, 1889.

MR. ROGER A. PRYOR, JR.,
No. 11 Wall Street,
New York.

DEAR SIR :

I have seen in the newspapers lately, references to the capture of your father during the late war in front of the Confederate lines near Petersburg, and upon your request send a few lines on the subject.

There was a disposition during the war, which could not be checked, to exchange newspapers, and your father, a general scout at the time, was in the habit, as I have been informed, of making such exchanges in the skirmish lines. In the latter part of November, 1864, it was reported to me that General Pryor had crossed our lines to exchange papers with the enemy's pickets and had been detained by them, and taken to the rear, as could be seen by the men in our lines.

As this occurred in the part of the lines held by my division, I rode out to the point where it was reported to me he had crossed our line, and endeavored to ascertain all the facts connected with the affair. The conclusion reached,

after quite a thorough examination, was that your father had been deceived, and captured in a manner not anticipated; and under this impression I visited the headquarters of General Lee, and made the request, that he permit me to write to General Meade asking him to release General Pryor; my request was granted. In my letter to General Meade, I detailed the circumstances (as reported to me) of the whole transaction, how your father made a signal, which was responded to, and that he then, with newspapers in his hand, advanced toward the Union lines, that he was met by a party from his (Meade's) lines, seized, as appeared from our side, and marched to the rear.

I informed General Meade that it was against orders in our army to hold communication with the hostile pickets, and presumed the same orders existed in the army he commanded; but, that whilst there were such orders and efforts were made to enforce them, it was well known they were violated, and newspapers obtained in this way were greatly prized and eagerly read in the two armies. I requested of General Meade, if my statement was confirmed by his men and officers, that he would release General Pryor; my letter was answered without delay, but the General declined to return Pryor, saying he had but recently dismissed two captains for a like offence, and that Mr. Pryor must suffer the consequences of his inconsiderate act. Your father was held as prisoner for several months and was then paroled and returned to his home to await an exchange, as I suppose; I met him quite frequently after his return.

The charge of desertion, may be, even at this late date annoying to himself and family, but it is an idle one without foundation. I would never have made any efforts to have him returned, nor, would General Lee have given his consent, had there been a suspicion of such a thing; nor could or would he have been released and paroled, to go to his home and there to remain until exchanged, had he been a deserter. The case is too clear to admit of any discussion. Regretting that there should have been any occasion for the above letter, I am very sincerely and truly,

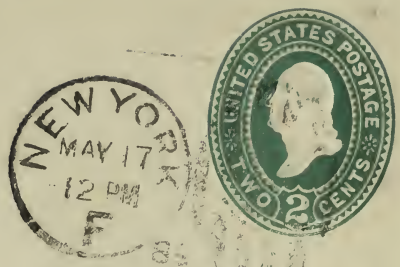
Your friend,

C. M. WILCOX.

II.

Affidavits of the men who captured General Pryor.

I, Hollis O. Dudley, of the City of Manchester, State of New Hampshire, do hereby make oath to the following facts: In the Fall of 1864 I was in command of Eleventh Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers. In November of 1864, a Captain Burridge of the Thirty-sixth Massachusetts Regiment had been captured by two Confederate officers while between the lines engaged in a sort of contraband trade which was then going on between the picket lines of the opposing armies, by which newspapers were exchanged for tobacco, etc., and both sides became thus informed of each others movements. General Sherman was then on his march to the sea, and orders were issued to stop this sort of thing. Burridge had gone out alone to meet two Confederate officers and they had walked him into their lines, one on each side of him.



R. A. Brock Esq.
Historical Society
Richmond Virginia

The capture of Burridge was considered by the Ninth Corps as a reflection upon them, and General Parke applied for and obtained permission to capture a Confederate officer, under similar circumstances, as a measure of retaliation. This was at once communicated by General Parke to his officers, and we determined to seize the first opportunity to carry his order into effect.

On or about the 27th of November, 1864, I was in command of the brigade picket line, the picket consisting of the Eleventh New Hampshire and two companies of the Thirty-second Maine Regiment. My advance picket was on a knoll in an angle of the line and commanded considerable distance. I had just been to dinner when I was told that a Confederate officer wished to communicate with us for the purpose of exchanging papers. I selected five men of the Eleventh New Hampshire and numbered them from one to five, and ordered Captain Hussey of the Thirty-second Maine to pick out five of the best marksmen and coolest men of his regiment. These were numbered from six to ten. These men were sent forward to the advance post with orders to keep me in view and to fire in rotation commencing with No. 1 (who was T. O. Furnald of this City) if I raised a hand or got into a quarrel and to kill the rebel if they could.

Pryor had been standing in front of the rebel picket for half an hour trying to effect an exchange of newspapers for tobacco. Captain Hussey had told him that an officer would soon be out to see him. As I walked out I took short steps which brought Pryor more than half way to our lines. When we met he made some remark to which I answered demanding his surrender. He replied, "No, by God," or some such language, but before the words were out of his mouth, his right hand was grasped in my left and a six inch Smith & Wesson six-shooter was pressed against his shirt bosom, he wearing a low cut vest. I at once faced towards my line saying, "A word from you or a particle of resistance and I shall drop you and go to my line," keeping my revolver constantly at his breast. In that position we moved to my post immediately in front of where we stood. Resistance would have been an act of sheer folly and the slightest offer would have been met by instant death.

As we stepped into the post, which was occupied by Captain Hussey, a First Lieutenant of the Thirty-second Maine and a Sergeant Durgin, and the ten men referred to, Pryor succeeded in getting his revolver, cocked it and made a pass to shoot me, when the revolver was knocked from his hand by Captain Hussey.

After searching him for further arms, and taking his name, I immediately took him to General L. G. Griffin, brigade commander, and resumed my position in command of the picket line. Within one hour of my return to the line, General R. E. Potter sent his Provost Marshal to me to present his compliment and congratulate me upon the greatest achievement ever accomplished by an officer of the Ninth Corps since its organization, saying if I ever had any request to make of him, to command him. I returned my compliments to General Potter saying that I had but done my duty and that I had but one request to make, and that was that the revolver, belt and holster that I took from Pryor should be my property. The request was within a few days granted and I now have the revolver, belt and holster in my possession.

After the close of the war it was deposited by me in the State House, at Concord, New Hampshire, as a war relic, but fearing that it might be lost or injured I resumed possession of it.

HOLLIS O. DUDLEY.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, }
April 26th, 1889. }

Hillsborough, ss.:

Then personally appeared Hollis O. Dudley and made oath that the above affidavit by him signed is true.

Before me,

JAMES F. BRIGGS,

Justice of the Peace and Notary Public.

I, T. O. FURNALD, do hereby make oath that I am the person referred to in the affidavit this day made by Hollis O. Dudley; that I have read the said affidavit and that the facts therein stated are true. I further state that I witnessed the capture of Roger A. Pryor by said Hollis O. Dudley and it took place in the manner described in the affidavit of said Hollis O. Dudley.

TRUE O. FURNALD.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, }
April 26th, 1889. }

Hillsborough, ss.:

Then personally appeared True O. Furnald and made oath the above affidavit by him signed is true.

Before me,

JAMES F. BRIGGS,

Justice of the Peace and Notary Public.

City and County of New York, ss.:

MARCUS L. M. HUSSEY, being duly sworn, says: That he resides at Menlo Park, in the State of New Jersey, and is engaged in business as an electrician; that in November, 1864, he was Captain Commander of the Thirty-second Regiment, Maine Volunteers; that he was an eye-witness of the capture of Roger A. Pryor by Hollis O. Dudley, of the Eleventh New Hampshire in the latter part of November, 1864, and that the following are the circumstances:

General Pryor had crossed his own line, in answer to a signal from our side, as I afterwards learned, for the purpose of exchanging newspapers and advanced some distance, waving a newspaper. The custom of exchanging newspapers was a general one, but it was determined to stop it, as thereby the enemy gained information of our movements, and orders were issued to arrest any man engaged in it. General Pryor advanced, waving his paper, to a point nearly midway between the two lines, calling out, in words which we distinctly heard, "if you are not cowards, come out."

I was standing in front of our line all during this time and started to go out to meet General Pryor, when Dudley said to me, "you cannot leave your post, I will go," and at once started out, I remaining where I was.

Upon seeing Dudley, Pryor advanced until, when they met, he was about two-thirds distance across. When Dudley came up I heard Pryor say, "Where is you newspaper?" But he was, in a moment, seized by Dudley, and I instantly gave a signal to my men and they jumped into the trenches, and immediately a thousand rifles were brought to bear upon him. At the time he was seized I heard him cry out several times "treachery, treachery."

Under these circumstances he was marched into our lines. As we disarmed him he said to us, "This is treachery, by God."

He was sent under guard to headquarters, to the general in command.

At the time General Pryor cried "treachery" I did not know what he meant, but I subsequently learned that a Sergeant Reed, of my command, had waived a paper as an offer to exchange, and my impression is that Sergeant Reed's paper was waived in advance, and thus General Pryor was induced to come out and to advance to our line.

Resistance would have been instantly fatal to him, as he was covered by some of the best marksmen of our army.

Sergeant Reed's paper was sent by me to the capitol at Augusta, Maine, as a part of the war archives, and, I suppose, it is there now.

MARCUS L. M. HUSSEY.

Sworn to before me this 7th day of May, 1889.

O. H. SANDERSON,
Notary Public,
New York County.

[SEAL.]

Eastern Oregon Republican, Thursday, May 2, 1889.

GENERAL PRYOR'S CAPTURE.

Gen. Roger A. Pryor denounces the story that he deserted the Confederate cause during the war as "a cruel and atrocious calumny." He declares he was captured by a Union soldier while trying to effect a change of papers, and that his capture wrung from him "tears of unutterable anguish."

General Pryor is absolutely correct in his statement to the writer's personal knowledge, who, at the time of his capture, was attached to the Ninth Army corps, then holding a position on the extreme left of the army of the Potomac. At the time of his capture General Pryor was attired in a fine new uniform of Confederate gray that he had just received, and when it was ascertained who the man really was there was considerable of a commotion among the soldiers. The distinguished prisoner was escorted to the headquarters of General Parke commanding the corps, then taken to City Point to General Grant's headquarters and transported to Fort Lafayette in New York harbor. When Pryor came out on the line he had little thought of being captured, as the exchange of papers and tobacco between the "Johnnies" and the Union soldiers had been general. He was captured in retaliation for a similar act on the part of the rebels some time previous.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY

III.

Statements of Hon. Charles A. Dana, then Assistant Secretary of War, now editor of the New York *Sun;* of Hon. George H. Sharpe, then of General Grant's staff, and ex-Speaker of New York Assembly, and Hon. Washington McLean, former editor of the Cincinnati *Enquirer:*

"Some Southern paper has lately attacked Gen. Roger A. Pryor, accusing him of deserting to the Federal side toward the close of the civil war. It is a groundless and malicious accusation. We were cognizant of the circumstances at the time, and we know that in the capture of Gen. Pryor there was nothing to cast any doubt upon his fidelity to the Confederate States. In the civil war, and ever since, Gen. Pryor has always proved himself a man without reproach and without fear."—*N. Y. Sun,* April 23d, 1889.

Rondout, N. Y., May 6th, 1889.

Mr. Roger A. Pryor, Jr.

Sir:—

In reply to your inquiries of yesterday, regarding the circumstances of your father's capture as a prisoner of war, I have to state such as are within my own knowledge.

In November, 1864, I was the Assistant Provost Marshal General of the armies operating against Richmond, and was the officer of General Grant's staff charged with the Bureau of Military Information concerning the enemy. Prisoners taken by the several corps along the line were forwarded to headquarters at City Point, and it was a part of my duty, and of the officers serving with me, to examine them with reference to military information.

Where the number was considerable, or there were several from the same command, in the exercise of my discretion, I designated some for examination, including therein prisoners of exceptional rank or position. In the latter part, and I think on one of the last days of November, 1864, I found upon the lists of prisoners captured and forwarded during the day, the name of General Roger A. Pryor. He was upon the prison barge, a vessel used to hold prisoners of war, and moored in the James River abreast of City Point.

I directed the detail of a guard to fetch General Pryor to my quarters, and he was brought by the guard from the prison barge. He was treated precisely as a prisoner of war of rank would be treated, the guard remaining outside my quarters.

At the close of the interview which, on account of General Pryor's circumspectness in talking of military affairs, assumed a social character, General Pryor was remanded, under guard, to the prison barge, and turned over to the detachment in charge of the vessel.

This closed my personal relation to General Pryor as a prisoner of war, and I am, sir,

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) GEORGE H. SHARPE.

WASHINGTON D. C., May 8th, 1889.

MR. ROGER A. PRYOR, JR.

DEAR SIR :—

In response to your request to furnish you some of the particulars of your father's imprisonment, and the efforts used by me to induce the Government to release him, I send the following :

I had been a warm friend of your father's before the war, having known him back in the fifties, and when he was in Congress. My first information of his capture was from seeing a notice of it in the newspapers. I at once determined to use every effort to secure his exchange or parole. I ascertained, upon inquiry, that he was in strict confinement in Fort Lafayette. I applied to Governor Dix, of New York, for permission to see him, but it was refused. Finding that Mr. Stanton, the Secretary of War, was unalterably opposed to releasing General Pryor, I determined, in conjunction with other of your father's friends, including Col. John W. Forney, of Philadelphia, to apply directly to the President. I ascertained the facts connected with his capture, and upon stating them to Mr. Greeley, he gave me a letter to Mr. Lincoln advising Gen. Pryor's release and stating that he had been captured under peculiar circumstances which did not warrant the Government in detaining him any longer. I explained to Mr. Lincoln the circumstances under which your father was captured, how he was induced to approach the Federal line by an offer to exchange newspapers and was, under these circumstances, taken prisoner. I thought such an act was entirely unjustifiable and amounted to little less than treachery on the part of his captors.

Mr. Lincoln was also seen by Col. Forney. It so happened that just at that time Attorney-General Speed was exceedingly anxious to procure the release of a friend of his who had been captured by the Confederates, and an attempt was made to induce the President to agree that Gen. Pryor should be exchanged for this gentleman. Mr. Lincoln, after ascertaining all the facts, issued an order directing Col. Burke, the Commander at Fort Lafayette, to deliver Gen. Pryor into my custody and ordered me to report to him, together with Col. Forney. Armed with this order, I visited Fort Lafayette and found Gen. Pryor in strict confinement in the casemate with other prisoners. He was delivered up to me by Col. Burke and was, within a few days, paroled so that he might go to his family until arrangements were made with the Confederate Government as to his exchange, but within a short time thereafter Lee surrendered and the war was over.

I have now in my possession a letter written by your father to Mr. R. M. T. Hunter, asking him to use his, Hunter's, efforts to accomplish his exchange. The letter was sent to me to be sent to Mr. Hunter, but I could find no means of reaching him. Your father was in confinement in Fort Lafayette for several months and was held as a prisoner of war and treated as such.

Very respectfully,

WASHINGTON McLEAN.

IV.

CONTEMPORANEOUS ACCOUNTS.

(*Special dispatch to the World.*)

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
November 28th.

Ex-General Roger A. Pryor, now a private soldier in the rebel service, was captured here this afternoon by our pickets. The circumstances as related by himself are as follows. One of our men gave a signal to exchange papers with the rebel pickets, and Pryor, accepting the invitation, advanced to within range of our pickets when he was summoned to surrender, and, of course, had no alternative but to submit. The act is justified as retaliatory for a similar trick practiced by the rebels some days ago when they captured Captain Burrage, who is still a prisoner in their hands, although he has since been dismissed from the service for violation of orders in attempting to hold communication with the enemy. The orders against exchanging papers with the rebels in our front are very strict, and have been rigidly enforced for the past two months. Pryor said that orders were issued for the release and return of Burrage to our lines yesterday, and he would have been sent across to-morrow if we had not retaliated in capturing him. It is probable, if such is the case, that Pryor will be sent back as soon as Burrage is returned by the rebels.

Pryor appears very sanguine of the ultimate success of the rebellion, and ridiculed the idea of our putting faith in the statements of deserters and refugees. He does not appear to be much cast down by his present misadventure, but regards the means used to secure his capture as not strictly in accordance with the code of honor, and as more particularly severe in his case, as he had used his influence to secure the release of Burrage, and prevent the recurrence of such captures by the rebels" (personal description follows here; irrelevant). "He contends that the election of Mr. Lincoln is just what the South wished, and although apprehensive that it may prolong the war another four years, declares that it has united their people, and rendered the probabilities of their ultimate success much greater than could have been hoped for had he been defeated. He would give no information about General Sherman or the operations in the Valley of the Shenandoah, and was indisposed to converse upon any subject connected with army movements."

Richmond Examiner, Nov. 30th, 1864.

"CAPTURE OF ROGER A. PRYOR.

We regret to know that the rumor of this gentleman's capture is true. For some time past a tacit convention between the armies sanctioned a daily exchange of papers on certain portions of the lines between single soldiers from each side. On Monday morning he left his horse and arms and went out into the middle of the space between the picket lines for this purpose, waving as usual the papers to be exchanged. He was recognized by some Yankee officers, and they sent an athletic man with papers and two or three others

followed at a little distance. The first grappled with General Pryor, and the others rushed on him and dragged him into their lines. Here is what our soldiers may expect whenever they rely upon the honor of the Yankees.

No doubt the captors thought they had obtained a wonderful prize, and we fear that General Pryor will be ill-treated, for there are few against whom the Yankee nation entertains more mean spite and malice. We style him General by courtesy; for it is well known that he is, and has for two years been, a private and regularly enlisted soldier, serving in the ranks of the Confederate cavalry as such, having no public importance, no authority, consequence or privilege than any other regularly enlisted Confederate soldier. In the first days of the war he raised a fine regiment of which he was elected Colonel. Later the Confederate Government commissioned him to be a Brigadier-General, and ordered him to duty in command of a brigade left without a General, we believe, because its commanding officer was wounded. In this command, General Pryor often distinguished himself by his gallantry and judicious conduct. He lost his command by the return of the officer whose place he occupied temporarily. On applying for other duty at the War Department he got nothing but vague promises. His high spirit would not brook the position of a Brigadier General without a brigade. He soon threw up his commission and enlisted as a common soldier in the cavalry, where he has since been serving. Having been a good officer he made an excellent trooper, and by his treacherous capture the Confederacy is deprived of one good man. But the enemy will pay dearly for it, for the dishonorable means employed in this affair will embitter our skirmishes and pickets so much that hundreds of Yankees will lose their lives in consequence."

Petersburg Express, Monday, Nov. 28th, 1864.

"General Roger A. Pryor was captured by the enemy yesterday. .While riding along the lines on our right, he stopped at one of our vidette posts, and left his horse and private arms, with one or two other articles, in charge of the pickets, stating that he intended, as was his custom, to go forward and exchange papers with the enemy's videttes. He advanced in the direction of the Yankee lines, flourishing a paper in his right hand in token of his object, and after proceeding some distance was met by a Yankee officer. An exchange of papers was effected, and General Pryor had turned to retrace his steps when he was suddenly seized by two or three armed men, who were lying in ambush, and hurried away. The whole transaction, we understand, was witnessed by some of our men, but at too great distance to render any assistance. General Pryor had frequently exchanged papers with the enemy, and his name and character had, no, doubt, been reported to them. They resolved to have him by fair means or foul, and descended to the basest treachery to accomplish their purpose. We trust that some notice may be taken of the matter by our military authorities, and every effort used to secure his early return. During the last few months the General has been acting as independent scout, in which capacity he has rendered valuable service."

New York Herald, Wednesday, Nov. 30th, 1864.

"North Army Corps, Virginia,
Nov. 28th, A. M.

Yesterday a rebel officer made his appearance in front of our lines, waving a paper which it was evident he wished to exchange. The officer in charge of the picket, suddenly remembering that Captain Burridge of the 36th Massachusetts was taken prisoner some time since by the enemy while on a similar errand, 'gobbled' the rebel, who proved to be the famous Roger A. Pryor, ex-member of Congress and ex-Brigadier-General of Jeff. Davis' army. He protested vehemently against what he styled a flagrant breach of faith on our part. He was assured that he was taken in retaliation for like conduct on the part of his friends, and sent to General Meade's headquarters for further disposition."

Press Dispatch to Herald of Nov. 30th, Nov. 29th, from Washington.

"Roger A. Pryor has been brought to Washington and committed to the Old Capitol Prison."

Dispatch to Herald of Nov. 30th.

"Washington, Nov. 29th.

Roger A. Pryor arrived here this morning and leaves to-night for Fort Lafayette. He attracted much attention as he was escorted down the avenue to the Old Capitol under guard, and was recognized by many of his former acquaintances here. It is probable he will soon be returned, as it is understood that Captain Burridge, for whose capture he was taken in retaliation, is to be returned."

Baltimore Dispatch to Herald of Nov. 30th, Nov. 29th, 1864.

"The rebel ex-General Roger A. Pryor, captured on the picket line before Richmond, was sent North to-night, to be confined in Fort Lafayette, He will be in New York in the morning. He went through here in charge of a Brigadier and a Lieutenant."

Herald, December 1st, 1864.

"Roger A. Pryor arrived in this city yesterday morning at five o'clock, in the custody of Brigadier-General Wessels. At seven the party proceeded to Hamilton Ferry to take the cars in Brooklyn for Fort Hamilton, from whence he was sent to Fort Lafayette, where he is now confined. Previous to proceeding to Fort Lafayette the party stopped at the Merchants' Hotel, where Pryor registered his name. The names of General Wessels and Lieutenant Shaw immediately followed it."

Herald, Dec. 1st, 1864.

"Pryor was ferried over to Fort Lafayette, where he is now confined."

Extract from *Savannah News*, copied in another paper, thus :

"General Roger A. Pryor.

The *Savannah News* has the following notice of the capture of General Roger A. Pryor :

'The telegraph brings the intelligence that this distinguished Virginian was captured by the Yankees through their treachery. Soon after the commencement of the war he was appointed by the President Brigadier-General in the army, and served as such for a time, displaying great personal gallantry as an officer and a soldier. By some means, through some changes made in the assignment of troops, General Pryor was left without a command. He several times asked the President to assign him to some duty, but the request not being complied with as promptly as he desired, he resigned his office and volunteered as a private in the cavalry service, where he remained until this time, performing the same duties as any other private.

He is a gentleman of fortune, highly educated and one of the most brilliant young men in the Old Dominion. He was in the U. S. Congress for some time, and served through the Provisional Congress as a representative from Virginia. He has demonstrated his patriotism and shown himself as brave a soldier as ever drew a sword.' "

V.

* All letters from prisoners were examined by Federal officials, and hence the reserve of the writer.

Letters of General Pryor from Fort Lafayette.

"Fort Lafayette, Feb. 17th, 1865.

"My Dear Wife :

I was delighted this morning by the receipt of your letter of the 16th ult. A month had elapsed since I last heard from you; and you may imagine I was beginning to be somewhat impatient for news from home. Your letter was all I could desire. Thank God that you all continue in good health, in comfortable circumstances and cheerful spirits. Beyond this blessing, I ask nothing more. For myself I am well, and as contented as is compatible with my condition. My mind would be at ease but for solicitude for my family and my country. Every disaster pierces my soul like an arrow; and I am afflicted with the thought that I am denied the privilege of contributing even my mite to the deliverance of ———. How I envy my old comrades their hardships and privations ! I have little hope of an early exchange; and you may be assured my mistrust is not without reason. *Except some special instance be employed to procure my release, my detention here will be indefinite.* I cannot be more explicit. While this is my conviction, I wish it distinctly understood that I would not have my Government compromise any scruple for the sake of my liberation. I am prepared for any contingency—am fortified against any reverse of fortune. I am truly grateful to Col. Ould for his kindness to you. What of your likeness ? Kiss the children.

Devotedly,

ROGER A. PRYOR."

"Fort Lafayette, Jan. 9th, 1865.

"My Dear Wife :

* * * * * * * * *

I suppose no resource is left me but to bear my misfortunes with becoming dignity. I have some some books with which I continue to beguile the tedious hours of confinement. What of my exchange? Is there no hope? Of one thing be assured : *I will not be released except my Government insist upon it.*

Devotedly,
ROGER A. PRYOR."

"Fort Lafayette, Dec. 20th, 1864.

"My Dear Wife :

* * * * * * * * *

I am well, but my philosophy begins to fail somewhat. In vain I seek some argument of consolation. I see no chance of release. The conditions of my imprisonment cut me off from every resource of happiness, and yet I am as comfortable as I have any right to expect.

Devotedly,
ROGER A. PRYOR."